



SFM Report

August 2005

Protecting life and property through the development and application of fire prevention engineering, education and enforcement

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

In previous months, I've used this forum to communicate with you about issues that impact us all. This month, and in the coming months, I will use this forum to keep you informed of our efforts in developing the International Building Code, International Fire Code and International Residential Code as the basis for our State Building Standards. The objective we must keep focused on is that the final adoption package include only those amendments reasonably necessary to maintain a substantially equivalent level of fire and life safety in California. Other amendments can be addressed in future code cycles which must stand on their own merit.

To date, several members of your organization have stepped forward to participate on the fourteen previously identified work groups. I have directed that the volunteer list be placed on our website to encourage participation. The number of responses has been very impressive; however vacancies remain. There is no disagreement that the level of importance of these workgroups warrants all of your participation. If you



haven't already signed up, please take a moment to view the list of your peers who have, select a workgroup, and contact your organization's point-person. For the northern division the contact is Rick Terry, San Ramon Fire Protection District. For the southern division, contact Christina Jameson, Venture County Fire.

It is important to note that this process is a "developmental phase" of the code adoption process for consideration by the State Fire Marshal, and is not the formal public comment period. That process comes after submittal to the Building Standards Commission.

Here are a few of the activities my staff is currently working on. Letters appointing the Core Group members are being prepared. Core Group members will assure the workgroups maintain a consistent approach in their codification efforts and make recommendations to this office. The Core Group kick-off meeting has been scheduled for September 6th in Sacramento and letters are being sent out at this time. Kick-off meetings for the workgroups will be scheduled shortly thereafter. Requests to participate are also being made to our various industry stakeholders as their participation on the workgroups is crucial. Staff is preparing the information packages the Core and Workgroup members will need to complete their tasks. It is my intention to keep as much information publicly available as possible by posting meeting schedules, minutes and stakeholder comments on the SFM website, <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/>

There is also a lot of code activity with the other State agencies. We are meeting regularly with them and are now preparing written progress reports for dissemination and discussion at every Building Standards Commission meeting. Of course, our information will always be available to you on our website. State agencies are working on a web-based software package being developed specifically for this code adoption effort by ICC. The software will be available to us on September 1st, and will be available to the workgroups. Briefly each workgroup will have an electronic version of the code available with the ability to make annotations that can be reviewed with the other group members. Once the workgroup completes its review and analysis, this

“draft working document” would be reviewed by the Core Group who will also be able to view the rationale used by the working group and the *initial statement of reasons* that will ultimately be used in the formal rulemaking process by the State Fire Marshal staff after consideration of the recommendations of the Core Group. Not only will this software aid in the development process, but equally important, it can drastically speed up the publication of our new State code. I am truly excited that California, once again, will be breaking new ground in the code development arena.

Lastly, I have received many questions about my status with regard to the City of Palo Alto, and as State Fire Marshal. I have been supported by many of you. I am honored to work with each of you. I greatly appreciate the confidence and support I have received from each of you. Together, we have been afforded a great opportunity to make a difference in California on matters of fire and life safety. Therefore, it is my pleasure to let you know I have submitted my resignation to the City of Palo Alto and will remain as State Fire Marshal at the pleasure of the Governor.

I will always be grateful for and proud of my association with the City of Palo Alto. However, I look forward to working with you all on the many areas that are the responsibility of the CDF/Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Make sure to visit Chief Grijalva’s webpage, “From the Chief” for recently posted information.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY DIVISION

Statutes and Regulations Class

State Fire Marshal Statutes & Regulations Class

Title 19 & Title 24

October 11, 12, & 13
(Class Hours: Oct 11-12 0800-
1700, Oct 13 0800-1400)

Instructors: Hugh Council, Joe
Garcia & Bill Greene

Ludwig Community Center
864 Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Code Interpretations

All requests for interpretations are to be sent to Joe Garcia, Division Chief, Fire and Life Safety Division South at:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite A
Monrovia, CA 91016
Tel (626) 305-1908
Fax (626) 305-5173
Joe.garcia@fire.ca.gov

For additional information, please visit the SFM webpage under *"How to request a code interpretation from the SFM"*

CALIFORNIA ALL INCIDENT REPORT SYSTEM (CAIRS)

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact:

Penny Nichols
Staff Services Analyst
Tel. (916) 445-8435
Fax (916) 445-8459

FIRE ENGINEERING

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Flame Retardant Program

In September, Limited Applicator license renewals will be mailed out to all current Limited Applicators for the 2005 Christmas tree season. Any questions regarding the renewal process or status of a Limited License, please contact Debbie Vehrs at:
Debbie.vehrs@fire.ca.gov.

The testing of new fabrics and or materials are continuously being tested at our lab in Ione. Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact Deputy Marc Yepez at
marc.Yepez@fire.ca.gov.

Building Materials Listing (BML)

The Fire Alarm Advisory Committee met on July 20, 2005 and welcomed several new local fire service members to the committee. A "draft" of the meeting minutes is posted on the SFM website. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2005.

The BML Program would like to inform the local FPO's that all CSFM listings are renewed until June 30, 2006 and are posted on our website. All "fire alarm"

listings are renewed and available on the website to assist you in the plan review of fire alarm systems and equipment.

We would like to remind you that although we list many products and materials, there are only two (2) *required* to be listed and approved by the State Fire Marshal; fire alarm equipment and devices [H&S Code 13114(b)] and wood shakes and shingles for roofs [H&S 13132.7(j)(1)]. Other products and materials are strictly voluntary. The BML website may be accessed at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/bml.html>. Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

Diane Arend
BML Program Coordinator
Tel (916) 445-8396
Fax (916) 445-8458
diane.arend@fire.ca.gov.

Automatic Extinguishing System Program

The next SFM Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2005.

The NFPA 25 working group is now working on the labels and forms to be used in conjunction with the proposed adoption of NFPA 25, Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, 2002 edition.

A new email address has been created to accept your comments on this regulatory package. You may email your comments on the proposed amendments to NFPA 25 to:

ProposedNFPA25Adoption@fire.ca.gov

You may review the express terms for this proposal at the following address:

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pdf/ul300propose_dchangestitle24part9.pdf

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

James Parsegian
Supervising Deputy
Tel (916) 445-8415
Fax (916) 445-8459
james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov

Portable Fire Extinguisher Program

The next SFM Portable Fire Extinguisher Advisory meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2005.

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

James Parsegian
Supervising Deputy
Tel (916) 445-8415
Fax (916) 445-8459
james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov

Investigations Unit

The Fire Engineering Investigators are always available to assist the local fire departments.

This unit has extensive background in the following areas of investigating:

- ✦ Fire Extinguisher Fraud
- ✦ Pyrotechnics
- ✦ Fire Works Display

This unit offers training for all of these subjects and tailors the training to the department's specific needs.

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

Tony Guevara

Investigator

Tel (916) 327-8278

Fax (916) 445-8459

tony.guevara@fire.ca.gov

Mark Yepez at mark.yepez@fire.ca.gov

Fireworks

The Next SFM Safe and Sane Advisory meeting is tentatively set for August 29 or 30, 2005. The next SFM Flame Throwing Devices workgroup meeting is set for August 8, 2005.

The next Special Effects Advisory meeting is scheduled for sometime in November 2005.

The fireworks enforcement hotline is (888) 399-3632 or (888) FWX ENFC. This 24 hour number is to report seizure of illegal fireworks or information related to the sales, use or storage of illegal fireworks. You may access updated version of the Fireworks Seizure Information Form at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pdf/fireengineerinfo/fw/fwsi/form.pdf>

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

Tony Guevara

Investigator

Tel (916) 327-8278

Fax (916) 445-8459

tony.guevara@fire.ca.gov

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

Statewide agency representatives from OSFM, Cal/EPA, OES, DTSC, SWRCB conduct unified program evaluations of local County Environmental Health Department and Fire agencies regarding the Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA) Hazardous Materials program. The state Fire Marshal's office specifically review the Hazardous Materials Management Plan and Inventory Statements of each regulated business within a county to ensure that the elements of the California Fire Code is incorporated in the CUPA plans, permitting and inspection program.

The OSFM CUPA Coordinator participates in training, regional board, advisory group and planning meetings. OSFM is one of the major contributors in the success of the annual Cal/CUPA Forum conference usually held in February each year.

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

Francis Mateo

CUPA Program Coordinator

Tel (916) 324-0232

Fax (916) 445-8459

francis.mateo@fire.ca.gov

CODE DEVELOPMENT

SFM's Regulatory Notice Distribution List

Anyone interested in being added to the SFM's mailing list or email distribution list for proposed rulemaking activities,

please provide the following
information:

- Name
- Address
- Email
- Telephone number
- Subject matter interest

Should there be any questions regarding
this program, please contact:

Daniel Najera
Senior Deputy
Tel (916) 324-9592
Fax (916) 445-8459
Dan.najera@fire.ca.gov